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Agenda item 116

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Integrated Management Information System project

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/217 of 21 December 1988,

Having considered the ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the updated special audit of the Integrated Management Information System,[3]

1. Notes the difficulties inherent in the implementation of the Integrated Management Information System project;

2. Expresses concern that the magnitude and complexity of the IMIS project was underestimated from its inception;

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[1] A/52/711.

[2] A/52/828.

[3] A/52/755.

3. Also expresses concern that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report of 21 November 1994 on the special audit of the Integrated Management Information System project[4] have not been fully implemented;

4. Expresses its deep concern at the findings of the Board of Auditors as contained in its report on the updated special audit;[3]

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the updated special audit;

6. Takes note of the corrective actions taken by the Administration concerning the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take immediate action for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-third session;

8. Expresses its deep concern about the time and cost overruns for the completion of the project;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure strict adherence to the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations in matters concerning control over expenditure on the Integrated Management Information System project, with particular reference to contractual costs, and to ensure that adequate administrative support is provided for the project in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors in paragraphs 25 and 27 of the annex to its report;[3]

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to determine the contractor responsibilities in the changes of the Integrated Management Information System in order to limit unnecessary payments by the administration;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with conducting a comprehensive analysis of the reasons for the increase in costs of the contract and to submit its analysis to the General Assembly no later than the end of the main part of its fifty-third session;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to have a forward-looking study of the system conducted by independent experts to be financed by available resources of the Department of Management, without affecting the implementation of its mandate, and to submit it to the General Assembly, together with his comments, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions no later than the end of the main part of the fifty-third regular session; the purpose of the independent study will be:

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[4] A/49/680.

(a) To assess the system from a technical point of view, both in terms of design and operations, taking into account the specific requirements of the United Nations;

(b) To advise on the long-term maintenance and operational requirements of the system in terms of the number and qualifications of staff, infrastructure and communications;

(c) To advise on possible strategies for improving the system and optimizing maintenance costs;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his tenth progress report a detailed plan of action and the final level of resources needed to resolve all outstanding problems to make the Integrated Management Information System fully operational, taking into account the main observations of the two above-mentioned reports;

14. Further requests the Secretary-General to reduce the dependency on the current contractor by limiting additional work to the minimum required to facilitate the implementation of the system at offices away from Headquarters and to take the necessary measures to have additional work performed by staff or by a contractor selected after competitive bidding;

15. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that a comprehensive programme for Integrated Management Information System training is included as part of the ongoing training programme offered to staff at all duty stations concerned;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate and qualified staff are assigned to the implementation and operations of the system at all duty stations.